Role of Prison Library in changing the behavior of Prisoners in Maharashtra – A Survey

ABSTRACT FOR APPROVAL OF SUBJECT

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1. INTRODUCTION :

Maharashtra is the state in the western region of India. It is (3 rd) third largest state in area and second (2 nd) in population.[1] Maharashtra is bordered by the Arabian sea to the west, Gujarat and Union territory of Dadra and Nagar haveli to the northwest, Madhya Pradesh to the north and northeast, Chhattisgarh to the east, Karnataka to the south, Andhra Telangana to the southeast and Goa the Southwest. The state covers 307,713 Km 2 i.e. 9.84 % of the total geographical area of India. Mumbai is the capital of the state.

The prison status of Maharashtra is as below – [2]

Sr.	**Type of Prison**	**No.**
1	Central Jail	09
2	District Jail	25
3	Women Jail	01
4	Borstal School	01
5	Open Jail	05
6	Sub Jail	172
	Total	**213**

The crime status of Maharashtra is very low as per the Report of National Crime Record of Bureau, by Ministry of Home Affairs, 2011.

Present age is the age of Information age. Each and every field of society needs information for its development. The vast area of society is bound by information. Different branches of education field are formed. They are interrelated with information each other. After industrialization the explosion of knowledge took place. No one is perfect in having all type of knowledge. Library is a means to collect all data and various knowledge forms. In this regard to help the society libraries were set up. Later these are categorized in Academic Library, Public Libraries, Special Libraries. These libraries are bound by certain norms in which they are mean to collect special type of collections.

Special libraries may be divided into many types as below.

1. Government Libraries
2. Research Libraries
3. Industrial Libraries
4. Prison Libraries
5. Newspaper Libraries
6. Children Libraries
7. Hospital Libraries
8. Blind Libraries, etc.

Prison library is related with the users from prison. Prisoners are neglected and socially deprived people. No one has sympathy with them. Society show hate rate towards them so they became psychic. They need special treatment and handling. To treat them as a human being special attention must be given to them and for this purpose prison library might become helpful for them. The books form religious books, story

books, history books, biography and literature of veteran people may divert them far from crime. Only through the education they could come in line of regular life. Only books can bring humanity among them.

2. Definition :

2.1 Library :

Library is a building or room containing collections of books, periodicals, and sometimes films and recorded music for use or borrowing by the public or the members of an institution.

As per Chambers Dictionary, "Library is a collection of books or a building or room congaing it." [3]

2.2. Special library :

The librarian's glossary by L. M. Harrod (1977) defines. Special library as, " A library or information center maintained by an individual, corporation, associations, government agency of other group; or , a specialized or departmental collection within a library." [4]

A. K. Mukherjee (1969) says that, "Special Library is a product of the twentieth century. It is directly related to scientific and technological research and industrial development. Although in some loose sense of the term, it had existed since antiquity as made out by library historians, having limited subject collections and serving some special group." [5]

2.3. Prison library :

Satarkar S. P. and Aghav U. V. (2013), "A library maintained in a prison for the use of prisoner's. [6]

Swaminathan, K. L. M. (2006), " A library which is maintained in a prison for the use of prisoners. In many prisons which is the libraries are provided by the local authority. The prison commissioner contributes a fixed sum per prisoner towards the cost." [7]

Konnu Sujata (2007), "Jail library is a library maintained in a prison." [8]

Horrod Leonard (1971), " A library maintained in a prison for the use of prisoners. In many prisons in Great Britain the prison libraries are provided by the local authority. The prison commissioners contributing a fixed sum per prisoner towards the cost." [9]

2.4. Behavior :

As per Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, Behavior means, "The way a person, an animal, a plant, a chemical etc. behaves or functions in a particular situation." [10]

As per Chambers Dictionary, behavior means, "Conduct; manners or deportment esp. good manners."[11]

Psychologically the functioning. Response or activity of an object or substance.

2.5. Survey :

"Statically surveys are general methods to gather quantitative information about a particular population. "Population" here does not necessarily mean a set of human being, but may consist of other types of units-firms, household, universities, hospitals, prisons etc. A term is applied to non-experimental research based on questionnaires or interviews." [12]

2.6. **Selection of Topic :**

As a researcher is working in Dayanand Law college, Latur, many occasions the words came across like prisoner, offenders, their guilt, the harassment to them and their family, education. As per the law, many

offenders may leave from punishment but not a single innocent must be punished. While searching ShodhGanga (the database of Ph.D. thesis) by Inflibnet, there was no subject found related to Prison Library. Very few attempts are made for the study of prison library and behavior of prisoner. As an isolated subject topic is chosen for the research purpose. My guide Dr. Aghav U. R. also supported the topic to find new dimensions about the role of prison library in changing the behavior of prisoners.

3. OBJECTIVES AND HYPOTHESIS

3.1. Objectives :

1. To study of the structure and status of prison library at the present.
2. To study the financial support and collection development of the prison library at present situation.
3. To find the services provided by the prison libraries.
4. To study the relation between prison staff and prisoners in changing prisoners behavior.
5. To study the involvement of volunteer teams to support the library function in prison.

3.2. Hypothesis :

1. The Prison Library has not sufficient strength of collection, Services and budget provision for its development.
2. The Prison Library environment is not indulged in changing the behavior of prisoner.
3. The volunteers are finding minimum support from government to develop the Library scheme.

Qualified staff in the Prison Libraries is not recruited.

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

With a view to achieve objectives and test the hypotheses laid, the data shall be collected through both primary and secondary sources. Primary data will be collected through a structured questionnaire administered to various prison authorities.

The secondary data shall be collected from various reliable sources such as journals, books, magazines, statistical digests, Universities records, and educational publications, news papers, past researches done in the field, projects, and many other sources. More over data shall also be collected from internet, which will facilitate collection of latest data in this area of research. The data thus collected from primary and secondary sources shall be analyzed by various statistical techniques according to need and requirement bases so as to arrive at authentic conclusions. The sample shall be collected as per the standard and desired requirement of the population. The sample respondents from which primary data shall be obtained to study will be categorized on the basis they belong.

5. IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY / SOCIETY APPLICATION:

In the light of the hypotheses laid down and the research approach adopted, the study shall be worked out in the following tentative chapters.

5.1. International Status:

Prisoners are same all over in the world. They are treated as a offenders by the prison staff while the judiciary system thinks them as innocent till the crime proves and the general public are on opposite side i.e. those who suffered call them offender and social workers call them harassed poor.

5.2 National Status :

In India the status of the prisoner is same all over the world. India made a land mark in world by giving judicial help to the international prisoners like Kasab, the 26/11 culprit.

5.3 Significance of the Study :

The significance of the study is to fine the status of the Prison Libraries in Maharashtra and the relation between prisoners and the prison staff. Is there any protection of Human Rights and support of the staff against the behavioral change of the prisoners ?

6. Proposed work plan / Formulation and Structure of Study :

Year wise plan of work and targets to be achieved are as below

1. Year First :
    1. Literature Survey and Course Work completion.
    2. Questionnaire preparation and pilot test.
2. Year Second :
    3 Literature survey and Data collection.
    4. Literature survey and Data analysis.
3. Year Third :
    5. Writing of the thesis, proposed plan, findings and report writing.
    6. Thesis Submission.

1. INTRODUCTION:

This chapter shall aim at introducing the concepts of special library and prison library, also the structure of prison and prison library.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

This chapter shall examine the past research done in this area of research and the need for the present study. Further, review of literature will be presented under the headings of researches on Prison Library in Maharashtra, India and abroad. At present researcher found following work took place on this field of research. Champawat G. S.(1986), Prison Libraries : Their role in the reformation and rehabilitation of the inmate with special reference to India, Ph.D. Thesis submitted to University of Rajasthan and Kanchan (1981), Prison library system & reforms : A literature survey, MLIS dissertation submitted to University of Rajsthan.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

4. COLLECTION OF DATA

In this chapter an attempt shall be made to collect the data about Prison Library. The Prison staff, volunteers and about the behavior of prisoners information is to be collected. .

5 ANALYSIS OF DATA

In this chapter an attempt shall be made to identify nature and dimensions of Prison Library. The role of Prison staff and other outsources will be interpreted through the statics found.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS:

In this chapter the findings and conclusions will be presented and workable suggestions will be recommended for improving service quality being offered by the library, staff of prison and volunteers.

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